

# EARLY HISTORY

## EARLY HISTORY OF MENTONE AND COMMUNITY

(The following records are based on the Mentone Gazette, February 5, 1885, information given by Clark Ernberger, Mrs. Charles Biddleman, Mrs. Flavia Tinkey and Mrs. John Underhill.

### Early History of Harrison Township

Harrison township, in which a part of Mentone lies, was organized on March 8, 1838. The two first settlers were James Wooden and Andrew Sell, who built their log cabins in the township in the spring of 1834. In 1836 eight more families came into the township: Christian Sarber, Isham Summy, William Blue, Joseph Shively, Thomas Reed, John and Daniel Underhill and Thomas Romine.

The first school house in Harrison township was erected in 1838 with Henry Bradley as teacher. The first post-office was established in 1836 at the home of James Wooden. In 1849 an M. E. church was organized at the home of J. W. Dunnuck and in 1851 a log church was erected on Section 31.

### Early History of Franklin Township

Franklin township, which is also occupied by a part of Mentone, was organized in March, 1838, at which time eight white families were residents of the territory. Benjamin Blue was the first white man to locate within the township and what was later to be the corporate limits of Mentone. Mr. Blue moved his family to a home built of bark that had been built by the Indians, and fires had to be kept burn-

The honor of naming the new town belongs to Mrs. George Myers. ~~morning~~ she happened to read a newspaper article about Mentone, France. The name pleased her and she made the suggestion that the new town be named Mentone and her suggestion was accepted.

(To be continued.)

## NAMING OF TOWN

(Continued)

Mr. Albert Tucker was the original founder of Mentone, but he later deeded one-third interest to each, William E. Hackerman and George W. Myers, of Findlay, Ohio. (It was Mrs. George Myers, ~~owner~~ of the Myers, who gave Mentone its name.)

1885

## Early History of Mentone

(Continued)

The growth of Mentone was rapid. The population increased in ~~three~~ years from one family of four persons, to ~~more than 100 inhabitants.~~ In the Mentone Gazette of Nov. 14, 1885, C. Smith, editor, we find a map of Mentone showing 103 dwelling and business buildings. This Nov. 14, 1885 Gazette and all the issues of the Mentone papers which followed it down to the present time are on file at the Mentone Library and can be examined at any time.

## Beginning and Early History of Mentone

The land now occupied by most of Mentone was part of the eighty acres purchased from the government by William Blue. It was next owned by Benjamin Blue, then by John Vantreese and later was purchased by John Morgan.

Albert Tucker purchased this land from John Morgan's widow. He also purchased 15 acres from Samuel Lee. About that time the Nickle Plate railroad was built and there was considerable agitation about the building of a new town and the choice of a suitable location. Some wished to build it farther west than Mr. Tucker's land and some wished it to be built farther east.

In May, 1882, Albert Tucker, founder of Mentone, surveyed the plat where Mentone is now located and laid out the town as far east as Morgan street, and west to Etna street, with the exception of the northwest corner of the town. (This corner was owned and laid out by Jim Blue and was known as the Blue addition. Later, Phil Bow-

man bought land of the Chris Sarber heirs and laid out the Bowman addition.

In December, 1885, the County Board of Commissioners acted favorably upon a petition for incorporation and Mentone became an incorporated town. On Jan. 6, 1886, an incorporation election was held to elect town officers. The following officials were elected: Richard C. ~~Rohrbach~~ Solamon Arnsberger, and John Yantiss, members of the town board; Stephen Boggess, clerk; Loren Manwaring, treasurer; S. S. Zentz, marshal.

## INCORPORATION TOWN OFFICERS TOWN MARSHALL